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ALBANIA REPORTS ON PLAN FULFILLMENT
FOR FIRST HALF OF 1950

STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES FIGURES -- Tirana, Puna, 4 Aug 50

Tirana, 2 August (Albanian Telegraphic Agency) -- According to an announcement by the Statistical Administration of the Albanian Planning Commission, the plan for the first 6 months of 1950 was fulfilled as follows in terms of 1949 figures:

Mining .

The plan for mining as a whole was fulfilled 165 percent. The plan for petroleum was fulfilled 127 percent and that for other mining 254 percent. The plan for crude oil was fulfilled 96 percent, for liquid bitumen 245 percent, for refined bitumen from Selenice 149 percent, for copper ore 173 percent, for coal 170 percent, and for chrome 256 percent.

Industry

The over-all production plan for industry was fulfilled 133 percent. The plan for macaroni products was fulfilled 137 percent, for beer 176 percent, for soap products 183 percent, for cloth 143 percent, for leather 162 percent, for shoes 198 percent, for rubber sandals 131 percent, cigarettes 159 percent, smoking tobacco 70 percent, cement 140 percent, lumber 189 percent, wood-processing 136 percent, electric power 112 percent, and metallurgy 133 percent.

The plans for important products of local industry were fulfilled as follows: wooden consumers' goods 238 percent, wood products for enterprises 423 percent, and electric power 162 percent.

The over-all plan for artisan production was fulfilled 138 percent.

Agriculture

The principal spring-planting plans were fulfilled as follows: cotton 157 percent, sunflowers 158 percent, castor beans 154 percent, tobacco 153 percent, hemp 106 percent, sugar beets 121 percent, and rice 128 percent.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1-HUM

The state farms fulfilled their plans as follows: milk 179 percent, vegetables 200 percent, eggs 121 percent, meat 289 percent, wool 130 percent alfalfa 250 percent, olive oil 214 percent, and fruit 160 percent. They fulfilled their plan for the first plowing 213 percent, planting 148 percent, grain harvest 226 percent, pruning 458 percent, and spraying of fruit trees 196 percent.

Building

The plan for building under the Ministry of Construction was fulfilled 143 percent. The plan for industrial construction was fulfilled 158 percent, agricultural 120 percent, health 162 percent, educational 195 percent, transportation 130 percent, cultural 256 percent, federal government 222 percent, and mass organizations 276 percent.

Trade

The plan for the turnover of consumers' goods was fulfilled 158 percent. The turnover plan for the state sector was fulfilled 140 percent, and for the cooperative sector 172 percent.

Crop Purchase

The state crop-purchasing plan was fulfilled as follows: wheat 337 percent, meat 98 percent, horse and cowhides 153 percent, sheep and goatskins 142 percent, kidskins 117 percent, and pelts 143 percent.

The cooperative crop-purchasing plan was fulfilled as follows: poultry 123 percent, butter 185 percent, cheese 153 percent, cottage cheese 200 percent, milk 95 percent, eggs 70 percent, potatoes 94 percent, and honey 245 percent.

Cooperative workshops fulfilled their plans as follows: firewood 196 percent and charcoal 132 percent.

Manpower

The number of workers employed compared as follows with the figure for the first half of 1949: in industry 123 percent, mining 125 percent, state sector of agriculture 116 percent, and building 142 percent.

SHEHU

HOXHA REVIEWS SUCCESSES, SHORTCOMINGS -- Tirana, Puna, 15 Aug 50

Speaking before the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party and the Council of Ministers, ~~Premier Enver Hoxha~~ reported that the fulfillment of the plan during the first half of 1950 was more successful than in any previous 6-month period. He reported on the achievements of the various sectors of the Albanian economy as follows:

Transportation

Until 1950, the failure of the transportation plans seriously handicapped many other sectors of the economy. This year, the transportation plan is being fulfilled satisfactorily, because of the replacement of the saboteurs Niazi Islami and Shyqyri Kellezi by Shefqet Peci.

However, there are still some defects in transportation, such as insufficient interest in the maintenance of equipment, disregard of the technical norms in vehicle operation, insufficient organization and competition, etc. Whereas previously transportation always operated at a loss, during the first half of 1950 it realized 27 million lek more than the profit called for by the plan. During this period the plan for motor transportation was fulfilled by 112 percent for freight and 118 percent for passengers, and the railroad plan was fulfilled by 118 percent for freight.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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*Vice-Premier
and Minister of
the Interior
Mehmet
Shehu*

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50X1-HUM

Construction

By the end of June, the building industry had completed its 1950 plan by 41 percent. The plan for the construction of the combine at Maliq was fulfilled 113 percent, for the Durres harbor 127 percent, for the Shenmeri-Kolgecaj road 217 percent, and for asphaltting the Vorre-Milot road 101.2 percent. The plans for railroad construction were not fulfilled.

The building industry has shown visible improvement since Rapo Dervishi replaced Abedin Shehu as Minister of Construction.

The building industry has been operating with only 72 percent of the planned labor force.

If the district executive committees supply at least 90 percent of the planned number of laborers to the building industry, if the Planning Commission is more careful in planning for the proper amount of lumber and transportation of building material to the construction sites, if building enterprises are more careful about the maintenance of vehicles, and if the "Projekti" Enterprise completes its projects on time, the plan will surely be fulfilled creditably in all fields of construction.

The plan for railroad construction failed primarily because not enough voluntary laborers were recruited for work on the railroads. The Ministry of Construction should concentrate its attention and main efforts on projects of major importance, such as the hydroelectric power plant at Selite, the railroads, and the "Stalin" Combine.

Internal Trade

The achievements of the sector of internal trade during the first half of 1950 were satisfactory. Because of better organization, the people received more food and consumers' goods, and the turnover in lek was 58 percent greater than during the first half of 1949. Prices at the end of June 1950 compared as follows with prices during the first half of 1949 (1949=100): butter 61, milk 46, cheese 60, potatoes 22, eggs 42, poultry 56. The food supply in work centers was the best it has ever been. The state commercial net increased by 42 percent, the cooperative net increased by 21 percent, and the private net fell to 89 percent of the figure for the corresponding period of 1949.

Since the departure of the former Minister of Trade and the removal of foreign trade and crop purchase to form an independent ministry, the Ministry of Trade will be better able to fulfill its own plan.

State commerce will continue to be limited primarily to supplying large cities with manufactured goods and to only a slight extent with food, while cooperatives in the cities will deal only with food. Consequently, food produced on state farms is supplied to labor centers by the cooperative and not by the state sector.

As the result of improper distribution by the Ministry of Trade, the plan for the turnover of goods was not fulfilled equally well in all districts. For example, during the first half of 1950 the turnover in Tirana was three times greater than in Korçe, 2½ times greater than in Shkoder, and 19 times greater than in Skrapar.

The problem of supplying the shipyards has not yet been fully solved. Another serious problem is the vast bureaucracy that has developed in the commercial sector. During the first half of 1950, the Ministry of Trade sent 7,898 official documents to the district executive committees and received 8,402 from them. The commercial system contains many undesirables,

- 3 -

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50X1-HUM

many one-time officials of Fascist enterprises, and many who have been convicted by the present regime or who have fought against it. All these undesirables should be purged from the commercial sector and commerce placed in the hands of the people, especially of Party members.

Mining

Plan fulfillment was least satisfactory in mining. The export plan failed because of the failure of the mining plan, especially the plan for petroleum, bitumen, and chrome. This is serious and should cause much concern.

The petroleum combine could have surpassed the plan for petroleum and bitumen production. The plan failed because of sabotage and the spirit of disloyalty and irresponsibility that spread through the mining districts last year, emanating from the former Minister of Industry, Abedin Shehu, and the former director of the petroleum combine, Shyqyri Kellezi. Despite the efforts that have been made to eradicate this attitude, traces of it remain.

Often local materials and equipment are not fully utilized, and insufficient use is made of the experience and advice of Soviet technicians. Supervision of labor is not sufficiently organized, more interest should be shown in improving the workers' standard of living, socialist competitions should be better organized, etc. It is up to the Ministry of Mining to see that its plan is fulfilled by the end of the year. There is no reason why the plan cannot be surpassed.

Industry

Only 92 percent of the 6-month plan for industry was fulfilled.

Local and artisan industry must be strengthened. Every year Albania imports about 50,000 assorted items. Many of these could easily be produced in Albania, if neglected local and artisan industry were strengthened. The Ministry of Industry is still bureaucratic, indifferent, and uninterested in preserving the national wealth and in exploiting all domestic equipment and materials.

Many undesirables have infiltrated into the industrial sector. They should be regarded as enemies who while unable to resort to arms, engage in economic sabotage. In this and all other sectors of the economy, there is little vigilance against these enemies, who hide behind the excuses of carelessness, inexperience, and shortages.

The greatest effort should be concentrated on the sectors of mining and industry. With better-organized supervision of labor, better utilization of all possible facilities, better organization of labor competition, and better defense against sabotage, the plan for industry can easily be surpassed.

The separation of mining from industry will certainly result in better progress in both fields.

Agriculture

The achievements of the MTS were gratifying, those of the state farms were adequate, and those of the stock-raising enterprises were poor.

- 4 -

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50X1-HUM

During this period, the plan for planting cotton was met 101 percent, for sunflower seeds 107 percent, for hemp 228 percent, for tobacco 77 percent, and for sugar beets 96 percent.

The MTS fulfilled their plowing plan by 112 percent, their threshing plan by 126 percent, and their spring-planting plan by 125.6 percent. In comparison with 1949, the half-year agrarian credit plan was fulfilled 308 percent.

The poor records of the stock farms, state farms, and private farms reflect great confusion, excessive bureaucracy, and inadequate organization in the Ministry of Agriculture. The recent organizational changes in the ministry will permit more rapid progress in agriculture.

The following important and urgent steps should be taken:

Plans should be drawn up and executed, specifying where industrial plants and other crops shall be grown. Studies should be made and a reclassification of land put into effect by the end of this year. Aid to poor peasants, including credits, tools, seed, etc. should be better organized.

- E N D -

- 5 -

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